

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15 COME-00 BIB-01 SS-15 L-03

H-02 /071 W

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R 161217Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8883

UNCLAS ROME 11467

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IT

SUBJECT: RECIPROCAL LICENSING OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

REF.: (A) STATE 139729, (B) STATE 153687

1. EMBASSY RECENTLY DISCUSSED POINTS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USG AND GOI RE POSSIBLE US-ITALY ACCORD PERMITTING RECIPROCAL LICENSING OF AMATERURRADIO OPERATORS WITH DR. WANDA BINETTI, CHIEF, AMATERUR RADIO OPERATOR'S OFFICE,MINISTRY OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PTT). ACCORDING TO BINETTI, FOREIGN AMATERUR RADIO OPERATORS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TWO ITALIAN LICENSES. FIRST IS TEMPORARY PERMIT ISSUED UPON REQUEST (WAITING PERIOD LESS THAN ONE WEEK) WITHOUT FORMALITIES FOR PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS, RENEWABLE FOR ADDITIONAL THREE MONTHS UPON REQUEST. SECOND IS REGULAR ITALIAN LICENSE WHICH IS ISSUED UPON PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS (POLICE GOOD CONDUCT CERTIFICATE, ETC.) AND CHECK BY PTT WITH OTHER MINISTRIES, PRIMARILY INTERIOR MINISTRY. THIS PROCEDURE OFTEN REQUIRES 5-6 MONTHS TO COMPLETE. PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO ITALIAN CITIZENS SIMILAR BUT NOT RPT NOT IDENTICAL. ACCORDING TO PTT, SUBSIDIARY PURPOSE OF TEMPORARY LICENSE IS TO ALLOW FOREIGN AMATEUR TO EXERCISE HIS HOBBY WHILE ON VACATION AND WHILE NORMAL CONTROL PROCEDURES RUN THEIR COURSE AND NOT PER SE TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS BASED ON LENGTH OF STAY.

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2. GOI PROBLEM, ACCORDING TO BINETTI, IS THAT USG PROPOSED DRAFT

DOES NOT RPT NOTHPROVIDE FOR FULL RECIPROCITY; I.E. USG REGULATIONS DO NOT APPARENTLY PROVIDE ASSURANCE THAT ITALIAN HAMS WILL E LICENSED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY BY US AUTHORITIES AS ITALIAN TEMPORARY LICENSE ASSURES THAT US HAMS WILL BE LICENSED BY ITALIAN A AUTHORITIES. ADDITIONALLY, BENETTI NOTED DISCRETIONALITY GRANTED FEE IN US REGULATIONS AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LACK OF SPECIFIC CRITERIA AND LACK OF AUTOMATICITY IN GRANTING LICENSES TO FOREIGN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS.

3. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS EXISTED IN U.S. TO INSURE AGAINST ABUSE OF DISCRETIONALITY IN GRANTING OF LICENSES. EMBOFF ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT US WOULD MODIFY EXISTING REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE SYSTEM SIMILAR TO ITALIAN TEMPORARY LICENSE PROVISION BUT THAT EXISTING US PROCEDURES, WHICH REQUIRE A MAXIMUM (NOT MINIMUM) 60-DAY WAITING PERIOD, APPEARED NOT UNREASONABLE.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING OPTIONS FOR EXAMINATION AS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO IMPASSE:

(A) MAKE APPROPRIATE MOFIFICATIONS TO US REGULATIONS TO MEET GOI REQUESTS.

(B) WE MAY BE ABLE TO CONVINCE GOI AUTHORITIES THAT US NORMAL PROCEDURES (I.E.: ISSUANCE OF FULL LICENSE WITHIN 60 DAYS) AND ITALIAN TEMPORARY PERMIT (GRANTED IMMEDIATELY) INVOLVE SUFFICIENTLY SIMILAR WAITING PERIOD THAT DIFFERENCES IS MODALITIES HAVE NO OPERATIVE SIGNIFICANCE. THIS WOULD REQUIRE INFORMWTION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOI REGARDING ACTUAL (NOT THEORETICAL) LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED TO OBTAIN S LICENSE.

(C) WE COULD SEEK TO CONVINCE GOI TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN ACCORD EXCLUDING US AMATERUR RADIO OPERATORS FROM BENEFITS OF TEMPORARY LICENSE SYSTEM. BINETTI, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED RELUCATANCE TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS AND STRONG PREFERENCE FOR US ADHERENCE TO GOI TEMPORARY LICENSE SYSTEM.

(D) DROP EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL WITH ITALY AND ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE ACCORD WITH EC AUTHORITIES APPLICABLE TO ALL EC COUNTRIES. WE NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT US HAS BILATERALS UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH ALL EC COUNTRIES EXCEPT ITALY AND THAT EC COUNTRIES GRANT EACH OTHER RECIPROCAL LICENSING PRIVILEGES ON THE BASIS OF COMMON EC MEMBERSHIP.  
OF COURSE, THESE OPTIONS DO NOT EXHAUST POSSIBILITIES.

5. EMBASSY HAS FILED NOTE VERBALE BASED ON ARGUMENTS CONTAINED REFTEL (A) AND THUS, BALL IN ITALIAN COURT. HOWEVER, DISCUSSIONS WITH BINETTI (WHO WILL PLAY KEY ROLE IN PREPARING

EVENTUAL GOI RESPONSE) PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE GOI  
RESPONSE AND HOPEFULLY TO SHORTEN TIME OTHERWISE NECESSARY  
FOR NEGOTIATING ACCORD.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT ON OPTIONS  
SET OUT IN PARA 4 AND DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, AGREEMENTS, LICENSES, RADIO BROADCASTING  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 STATE 153687  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hackerp0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2005 by vogelfj>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RECIPROCAL LICENSING OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS  
**TAGS:** ETEL, IT, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006